August 12, 1987

Emory L. Brown, Jr.
R.D. 3 Box 618
Howell, New Jersey 07731

Dear Emory,

I received your Keesler AFB piece today, and was just in the process of getting to you the "weight of evidence" article as I've slightly re-written it. Please note, on the latter, that about all I've done is eliminate the personal questions to me from your letter; and also to put the references in the footnote format that I usually use. If you find any errors or problems with it, please let me know right away, as I'm going to put the July issue to bed (finally!) early next week.

On the Keesler thing, it's certainly revealing that the military could find a "non-existent" document because of your persistence; and maybe it's worth publication on that point alone. On the substance of what the record reveals: Oswald's "attachment" to a Gulfport unit of the USMCR, I have a little problem interpreting that as a post-Keesler assignment. Isn't it just as or more likely that, for some reason, Oswald and other trainees were "attached" to that unit for the duration of their schooling at Keesler? I mean, maybe the school itself was only a "faculty" responsible for technical schooling while someone else had to be responsible for the students' shoes being shined and the other "vital" things in a military existence; and maybe the reserve unit in Gulfport was simply the nearest Marine outfit that could serve that function. It is strange, on that interpretation, that Oswald's records don't show him transferred from Jax to that Marine unit rather than, as it shows, a transfer to the student training group (on one service record; the one you sent me shows him transferred to Marine HQ in Washington, the same outfit that gave him his orders to El Toro). There is no doubt in my mind that Oswald's service records have been seriously tampered with, if indeed phases of or his whole USMC career may have been paper-fabricated. Accordingly, it's worth pursuing the "non-existent" document as a slip-up in revealing an "unofficial" aspect of Oswald's Marine career. I don't want to go to print with it, though, until the "innocent" interpretation that I have suggested can be checked out. Any thoughts?

Thanks very much for remembering THE THIRD DECADE as you reflect over your completed and continuing assassination research.

Sincerely,

Jerry

Jerry D. Rose